

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-32 and add new claims 33-45, as follows:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (new):

33. Apparatus for applying compressions to the chest of a patient to at least stimulate blood circulation, which includes an energizable actuator that repeatedly presses down against the patient's chest area when the patient's chest faces upward, and a torso wrap that is coupled to said actuator and that wraps to the back of the patient, said actuator including a stationary frame, a reciprocating member, and means for cycling said reciprocating member relative to said frame to repeatedly press said reciprocating member down toward the patient's chest during a part of each cycle, wherein:

5 said reciprocating member includes a cylinder forming said stationary frame and at least two piston parts that telescope one into the other including an outer piston part that is slideable in said cylinder, and an inner piston part that is slideable in said outer piston part;

10 said outer piston part being slideable downward in said cylinder to a position wherein a lower end of said outer piston part lies below a lower end of said cylinder, and said inner piston part being slideable downward in said outer piston part to a position wherein a lower end of said inner piston part lies below a lower end of said outer piston part, to thereby minimize the height of the actuator;

15 said means for cycling said reciprocating member urging both of said piston parts downward during a part of each cycle when said reciprocating member is

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pressed down.

Claim 34 (new):

34. The apparatus described in claim 33 wherein said means for cycling includes a source of pressurized gas connected to said cylinder, and wherein: said inner piston part has an inside diameter at least half the inside diameter of said outer piston part.

Claim 35 (new):

35. The apparatus described in claim 33 including: means for sensing recovery of the patient's chest, for automatically controlling the instant in each cycle at which said means for cycling begins to again move said reciprocating member to depress the patient's chest.

Claim 36 (new):

36. The apparatus described in claim 33 wherein said cylinder has an axis that is primarily vertical when the patient's chest faces upward, and including: a single pressing member lying on said axis and pivotally connected to a lower end of said piston to enable said pressing member to pivot about horizontal axes, said pressing member having a lower surface for pressing against the patient's chest.

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Claim 37 (new):

37. The apparatus described in claim 33 wherein said actuator has an axis that is primarily vertical, and including: a stabilizer connected to said cylinder, said stabilizer extending completely around said actuator without a gap of more than 90° as measured about said axis.

Claim 38 (new):

38. Apparatus for repeatedly pressing down against a patient's chest when the chest faces upwardly, including a cylinder, a piston that is moveable in said cylinder, and a source of pressured gas that repeatedly applies pressured gas to said cylinder to move said piston down against the patient's chest, wherein:

5 said piston includes a plurality of telescoping piston parts including a first piston part with a fitting portion that fits closely to said cylinder and is moveable downward to a lowest position wherein a lower end of said first piston part lies below said cylinder, and a second piston part with a fitting portion that fits closely to said first piston part and that is moveable downward to a position wherein a lower end of said second piston part lies below said lower end of said first piston part in said lowest position of said first piston part.

10 Claim 39 (new):

39. The apparatus described in claim 38 wherein:

 said fitting portion of said second piston part has a diameter that is at least one-half the diameter of said fitting portion of said first piston part.

Claim 40 (new):

40. The apparatus described in claim 38 wherein said cylinder has a primarily vertical axis, and including:

5 a pressing member that is connected to a lower end of said second piston part in a pivot joint that allows said pressing member to pivot about horizontal axes that all pass through said primarily vertical axis.

Claim 41 (new):

41. A method for applying pressure pulses to a patient's chest, by repeatedly automatically energizing an actuator to apply downward forces to cyclically depress the patient's chest and to cyclically not depress the chest to allow the chest to recover by moving up, comprising;

5 controlling said actuator to apply downward forces during a period that lasts between 10% and 30% of each cycle, and allowing chest recovery during at least 70% of each cycle.

Claim 42 (new):

42. The method described in claim 41 wherein:
said downward forces are applied to produce largely sinusoidal downward movement of the actuator.

Claim 43 (new):

43. The method described in claim 41 wherein:
said step of energizing an actuator includes flowing compressed breathable gas to the actuator, and including flowing some of the gas that has passed into the actuator, to the patient for breathing by the patient.

Claim 44 (new):

44. The method described in claim 41 including:
allowing a lower end of said actuator that presses against the patient's chest to tilt a plurality of degrees about two perpendicular horizontal axes with respect to the rest of said actuator.

Claim 45 (new):

45. The method described in claim 41 including:
applying upward forces to said actuator between applications of downward
forces thereto.